

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. (canceled).

Claim 14. (currently amended): A method for measuring the oxygen content in a closed target space, ~~particularly~~ for monitoring inertization levels in an inert gas device for controlling fire for fire prevention and/or fire extinguishing, the method comprising the steps of:

drawing an air sample from the target space with one or more suction holes of a suction pipe system;

determining a first measurement value of the oxygen concentration in the drawn air sample ~~with using~~ an oxygen sensor;

determining a second measurement value of the oxygen concentration in the drawn air sample ~~with using~~ a reference oxygen sensor, wherein the reference oxygen is switched on at regular time intervals during the step of determining the second measurement value to prevent aging of the reference oxygen sensor;

comparing the first measurement value to the second measurement value; and

issuing a disturbance signal from one of the oxygen sensor or the reference oxygen sensor when deviation of the first measurement value from the second measurement value exceeds a predetermined amount.

Claim 15. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising:
comparing, in the oxygen sensor, the first measurement value of the oxygen concentration of the air sample to a fixed threshold value; and

lowering the oxygen concentration by the infusion of inert gas into the target space when the threshold value is exceeded.

Claim 16. (currently amended): A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising:

measuring fire parameters in the drawn air sample with a detector; and
sending a signal from the detector for full inertization of the target space when a fire
parameter is ~~detected~~detected.

Claim 17. (currently amended): A method as defined in ~~to~~ claim 16, wherein the fire
parameters that are detected in the detector include at least one of smoke in the form of
particulates, aerosols, vapor, and at least one combustion gas.

Claim 18. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the
combustion gas detected in the detector is CO or CO₂.

Claim 19. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 14, further comprising:
monitoring CO and/or CO₂ content in the drawn air sample with a CO and/or CO₂
sensor; and
supplying fresh air to the target space dependent on a measurement value of the CO
and/or CO₂ content.

Claim 20. (canceled).

Claim 21. (currently amended): A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising:
following the issuing of the disturbance signal, continuously determining the oxygen
concentration in the air sample with the reference oxygen sensor, whereupon additional
evaluation of the first measurement value of the oxygen concentration ~~in~~ is performed with the
aid of the second measurement value that is determined by the reference oxygen sensor instead
of the first measurement value determined by the oxygen sensor.

Claim 22. (currently amended): An apparatus measuring the oxygen content in a closed
target space, ~~particularly as part of an inert gas device for fire prevention and/or fire~~
~~extinguishing~~controlling fire in a closed room, the apparatus comprising:
an inert gas device;

at least one suction pipe system configured to suck an air sample from the ~~monitored~~ target space through various holes;

an oxygen sensor to measure oxygen concentration in the air sample that is drawn from the target space and determine a first measurement value; and

a reference oxygen sensor ~~to measure~~that measures oxygen concentration in the air sample that is drawn from the target space and ~~determine~~determines a second measurement value to be used as a reference relative to the first measurement value of the oxygen sensor, said reference oxygen sensor being switched on at regular intervals for the second measurement to prevent aging of the reference oxygen sensor.

wherein, if the measured value for the oxygen concentration of the oxygen sensor deviates from the measured value of the oxygen concentration of the reference oxygen sensor by a preset value, one of the oxygen sensor and the reference oxygen sensor transmits an alarm signal.

Claim 23. (previously presented): An apparatus as defined in claim 22, wherein at least one of the oxygen sensor and the reference oxygen sensor is integrated in the at least one suction pipe systems.

Claim 24. (previously presented): An apparatus as defined in claim 22, further comprising:

a fan and fresh air supply;

a control that is configured to set inertization levels in the target space, and control the fresh air supply and fan; and

at least one detector to detect fire parameters in an air sample that is drawn from the target space by the at least one suction pipe system.

Claim 25. (currently amended): An apparatus as defined in claim 22, wherein ~~the~~ at least one detector is integrated in the at least one suction pipe system.

Claim 26. (previously presented): An apparatus as defined in claim 22, further comprising:

at least one CO or CO₂ sensor to measure the air quality in an air sample that is drawn from the target space by the at least one suction pipe system.

Claim 27. (previously presented): An apparatus as defined in claim 26, wherein at least one of the CO or CO₂ sensors is integrated in the at least one suction pipe system.

Claim 28. (previously presented): An apparatus as defined in claim 22, wherein the oxygen sensors comprise electrochemical cells of zirconium dioxide.

Claim 29. (new): A method for measuring the oxygen content in a closed target space for monitoring inertization levels in an inert gas device, the method comprising the steps of:

drawing an air sample from the target space with one or more suction holes of a suction pipe system;

monitoring CO and/or CO₂ content in the drawn air sample with a CO and/or CO₂ sensor; and

determining a first measurement value of the oxygen concentration in the drawn air sample using an oxygen sensor;

determining a second measurement value of the oxygen concentration in the drawn air sample using a reference oxygen sensor, wherein the reference oxygen is switched on at regular time intervals to prevent ageing of the reference oxygen sensor;

comparing the first measurement value to the second measurement value;

issuing a disturbance signal from one of the oxygen sensor or the reference oxygen sensor when deviation of the first measurement value from the second measurement value exceeds a predetermined amount; and

supplying fresh air to the target space dependent on a measurement value of the CO and/or CO₂ content.